

The Westfield Town Council met in regular session Monday, March 14, 2005 at the Westfield Town Hall. Members present were Teresa Otis Skelton, Bob Smith, Jack Hart, David Mikesell, and Ron Thomas. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Cindy Gossard, Town Manager Jerry Rosenberger and Legal Council Brian Zaiger. President Otis Skelton called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Jack Hart made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2005 meeting. Ron Thomas seconded. Vote: Yes-5; No-0. Motion carried.

Bob Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of March 8, 2005 as presented. Jack Hart seconded. Vote: Yes-3; No-0; Abstain 2 (Skelton, Mikesell). Motion carried.

Guests:

Jack Bonham introduced himself and spoke regarding the policy of not hearing from the public about items on the current council agenda. He feels it would be helpful to hear about current items.

Old Business

Ordinance 05-06WPW-Temporary Hydrant meters (charges and rates) First Reading-February 14, 2005 Second Reading

Bruce Hauk briefly presented this item. He noted a scrivener's error on the first page, under the Volume Charge.

Bob Smith made a motion to approve Ordinance 05-06 as amended. David Mikesell seconded. Vote: Yes-5; No-0. Motion carried.

Ordinance 05-05Sign Ordinance amendment (Westfield identification) Request to Advisory Plan Commission-February 14, 2005 Public Hearing scheduled at APC-March 28, 2005

Jerry Rosenberger discussed this item. He noted the intent to have a public hearing at the March 28, 2005 APC meeting.

Ron Thomas asked if Brian Zaiger had reviewed this ordinance.

Ordinance 05-03SF-A New Zoning district Public Hearing at APC- December 16, 2004 In committee as of March 14, 2005

Kevin Buchheit stated that the APC had discussed this item at their last meeting. He noted there might be additional committee meetings before this item comes back to council.

Regulatory Changes/Council Introduction

First Council Consideration
0503-REZ-02 188000 East Street
Rezone from LB to EI, by IMMI

Ron Thomas recused himself from this discussion.

Kevin Buchheit gave a brief presentation regarding this petition. He located the property for the council, and noted the APC had approved the construction of a parking lot for this parcel. This is intended to be an extension of the existing IMMI campus.

Mr. Tony Shalonka briefly noted this project is intended to be part of the IMMI campus and will be developed in the same fashion as the existing buildings.

David Mikesell made a motion to move this forward to the APC. Jack Hart seconded. Vote: Yes-4; No-0; Abstain-1 (Thomas). Motion carried.

Second Council Consideration

None

New Business

Proclamation Disabilities Awareness Month

Teresa Otis Skelton read the proclamation.

David Mikesell made a motion to authorize the council president sign this proclamation. Jack Hart seconded. Vote: Yes-5; No-0. Motion carried.

**Resolution 05-05 Preliminary Determination to issue bonds
Public Hearing Advertised for March 14, 2005**

Jerry Rosenberger presented this item. He stated the items to be purchased using the bond moneys will be technology and park uses. He noted that the actual bond would be considered at the April council meeting. He introduced the speakers on the various items.

Kevin Buchheit gave a background on the parks advisory committee and their work, recent park development plans, and the top priorities for development funds—Asa Bales and Quaker Parks. He described the development plans and various elements intended for both of those parks.

Mike Fisher gave background on the need to upgrade the Town's technology and explained the various items to be purchased.

Ron Thomas expressed his concern about keeping the website up to date.

Jim Treat gave a presentation on the financial aspects of a general obligation bond issue. He gave details on the estimated annual fiscal impact on homeowners.

Ron Thomas stated his concern about using the Town's reserve funds and tax rates. He stated the technology is a need; the park improvements are only wants.

Jack Hart stated his confidence with OW Krohn and their impeccable performance with past town bonds.

Ted Esping then spoke regarding the legal process of these types of bonds. He explained that tonight's meeting is just a preliminary determination to pursue bonds. The ordinance to actually sell the bonds will come later.

Bob Smith stated his support with this bond issue

A public hearing was opened at 8:26 PM

Mic Mead spoke against the bond. He discussed his concerns with financing a 5 to 8 year investment with a 13 to 15 year bond.

Robert Stokes questioned why the different issues were combined in one bond. He also questioned whether some of the technology equipment would last through the bond period.

Jerry Rosenberger stated the reason to combine the different issues into one bond is the cost of administering and insuring the bond. It is less expensive to combine them.

Melody Sweat (*the recording machine malfunctioned at this point and Ms. Sweats' comments were lost*)

Joe Plankis (*the recording machine malfunctioned at this point and Mr. Plankis' comments were lost. There was some discussion of ongoing litigation with Flynn & Zinkan*)

Ron Wilke stated his thoughts that a more conservative approach to spending should be considered. There are many unfinished projects throughout town that should be finished before buying more items.

John Talbot (*the recording machine malfunctioned at this point and Mr. Talbot's comments were lost*)

Presentation RQAW—space planning feasibility study presentation

the recording machine malfunctioned at this point. The information below was generated through notes taken at the meeting

Jerry Rosenberger mentioned he has asked Brett Dodd of RQAW to present a “space planning” methodology to help solve the space problem that currently exists in town hall and the public safety building.

Mr. Dodd gave a presentation on methodologies that might be used to determine the best space usage and locations. He gave an example of a previous space study conducted at another community.

There was council consensus for a proposal from RQAW to come to the council in April for consideration.

Presentation Westfield Gateways Presentation

David Mueller presented this item. He stated the proposal is the result of the work of a lot of dedicated people. He stated the belief that Westfield has a rich historical past and should be more widely known. He then presented a proposed Welcome to Westfield sign design. The total cost for the sign with labor, landscaping, and lighting is \$12,250; without the landscaping and lighting the cost is about \$8,000. He proposes six signs to be placed throughout the town.

Redevelopment Commission Appointments

Jerry Rosenberger presented the appointments. These people are reappointments of the original commission—Rob Hartman, Scott Robinson, Dan Degnan, Ron Thomas, and Jack Hart.

Jack Hart made a motion to approve the appointments. David Mikesell seconded. Vote: Yes-3; No-2 (Thomas, Skelton). Motion carried.

SR 32 Speed Limits INDOT response for Council consideration

Jerry Rosenberger explained that the town requested INDOT perform a speed limit study on State Road 32.

Bruce Hauk gave a brief presentation on the INDOT study. Traffic and accidents were reviewed. A recommendation of changing speed limits from 50 to 40 mph at the eastern portion of the town limits, leaving some existing limits in place, and extending areas of slower speed limits. INDOT would like the council to consider these comments and respond.

There was general discussion regarding school zones/times and perhaps further reducing (from 50-40 mph) through a greater portion of town (Shady Nook to Carey).

Jerry and Bruce will compose a letter for council to review.

Consent Agenda:

Release of Performance Bonds

Lochaven 7
Bridgewater I-2
Bridgewater J

Bob Smith made a motion to approve the consent agenda. David Mikesell seconded. Vote: Yes-5; No-0. Motion carried.

Release of Maintenance Bonds

None at this time.

Town Manager Report:

Jerry gave information on the current tax rates (.174). This year's rate is less than it was in 2004.

Jerry asked council to discuss whether or not to include general information and/or questionnaires in water/sewer bills.

General consensus was to allow other public entities (schools, library, etc.) as long as they paid any additional mailing costs.

Jerry announced the resignation of Brad Grabow from the Advisory Plan Commission.

Between now and April, Jerry hopes to get information on redistricting and new elections to the council.

Jerry gave a brief update on legislation on annexations.

Jerry announced the return of Carrie Coughlin. She will be working on code enforcement and storm water phase II inspections.

Jerry will be having a meeting with representatives of Carey Commons regarding annexation and abatements.

Council Members Comments:

Teresa Skelton discussed Brad Grabow's resignation. She wants to consider using the recent candidates used to select Cindy Spoljaric. This appointment would be to finish Brad's term only. It would be

desirable to have someone in place for the April 25 Advisory Plan Commission meeting.

Claims:

David Mikesell made a motion to approve claims. Ron Thomas seconded. Vote: Yes-5; No-0. Motion carried.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 PM. An Executive Session followed.

Clerk-Treasurer

Council President